

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for the coating of a surgical device, wherein the coating is carried out by electrostatic powder deposition.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein after application the powder is heated to form a coherent coating layer.
3. (Original) A method for coating a device for implantation in the human or animal body or for a medical interventional procedure, wherein the coating is carried out by electrostatic powder deposition and subsequently the powder is heated to form a coherent coating layer.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 3, wherein the powder material comprises a polylactide, polycaprolactone, polyvinylpyrrolidone, poly(acrylic acid), polyurethane or poly(butyl methacrylate-co-methyl methacrylate).
5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 4, wherein the powder material is applied from a source spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.5mm to 5mm.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 5, including the steps of

applying a bias voltage to generate an electric field between a source of the powder material and the device;

applying the electrostatically charged powder material to the device, the powder material being driven onto the device by the interaction of the electric field with the charged powder material and the presence of the charged powder material on the device serving to build up an electric charge on the device and thereby reduce the electric field generated by the bias voltage between the source of powder material and the device, and

continuing the application of the electrostatically charged powder material to the device until the electric field between the source of powder material and the device is so small that the driving of the powder material by the electric field onto the substrate is substantially terminated.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 6, wherein the device is for delivery of an active material and that active material is contained in the coating.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 7, wherein the device is for delivery of a diagnostic agent and that diagnostic agent is contained in the coating.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 8, wherein the coating includes a source of radioactivity.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 9, wherein the coating includes an agent for the treatment or prevention of restenosis, or an anticoagulant, an anti-thrombogenic agent, an anti-microbial agent, an anti-neoplastic agent, an antiplatelet

agent, an immunosuppressant agent, an antimetabolite, an anti-proliferative agent, or an anti-inflammatory agent.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the device is a stent.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the device is a heart valve.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the device is a pacemaker, catheter, orthopaedic or dental implant, artificial hip or other joint, artificial organ, neurostimulator, cardiovert defibrillator, dialysis tubing or tubing for heart-lung machine.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein the device is made of metal.

15. (Currently Amended) A device as specified in claim 1 ~~or claim 3~~, which has been coated by a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~.

16. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, which comprises application of a DC bias potential and an AC potential.

17. (New) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the AC potential is substantially higher than the DC potential.

18. (New) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the powder material is applied from a source spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.5mm to 5mm.

19. (New) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the powder material is applied from a source spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.5mm to 5mm.

20. (New) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the powder material is applied from a source spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.5mm to 5mm.

21. (New) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the bias voltage is a DC voltage and an AC voltage is also applied.

22. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the alternating voltage has a peak to peak value greater than the peak value of the DC bias voltage.

23. (New) A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the alternating voltage has a peak to peak value more than twice the peak value of the DC bias voltage.

24. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the powder material is applied from a source spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.5mm to 5mm.

25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the powder material is applied from a source spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.5mm to 5mm.

26. (New) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the powder material is applied from a source spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.5mm to 5mm.